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S. T. DARLING

BOARD OF HEALTH LABORATORY,  
ANCON, CANAL ZONE

#### A REQUEST FROM THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NATURALISTS

THE American Society of Naturalists does not possess a complete set of its published "Records." It has no copy of Part IV., Volume II. The secretary wishes to complete at least one set of the "Records" to be deposited with other material at the Wistar Institute.

Several complete sets may be made up if copies of the following can be obtained:  
Volume I, Parts II., III., IV., V., VII., VIII., IX. and XI.

Volume II., Parts I., II., IV., V., VI. and VII.

Members of the society are therefore asked to look through their papers and to write to the secretary if they can supply any of the parts desired.

BRADLEY MOORE DAVIS,  
*Secretary for 1913*

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

#### THE FACTS ABOUT THE ACCOUNTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The article by Professor Hart in SCIENCE for January 10 contains errors that need correction. The financial report of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for the year 1910 has been compared with the reports of the other societies for 1911, although the Academy's financial statement for 1911 was printed in May, 1912, eight months before Professor Hart's article appeared.

The apparent discrepancy between membership list and paying members is due to the fact that Professor Hart fails to take into account the 128 life members and 503 subscribers of the Academy represented mainly by libraries and other institutions not eligible to membership.

The statement is made in the article that the expenditure of the Academy, per paying member, was \$6.71 for the year 1910. This calculation is not based on the true figures for membership, and suppresses the fact that \$10,493.00 was received from subscriptions to publications by non-members, from sales of current numbers, from special contributions and from life-membership fees.

The number of pages published during the year 1910 is said to be 1,523 when in fact 2,034 pages were printed. The number of words published in 1910 was 1,176,650 and not 685,000, as stated in the article.

The details are as follows:

37,300 copies of *Annals* issued in 1910.  
1,500 copies of *Annals* reprinted.  
10,700 copies of a Child Labor supplement.  
27,800 copies of four issues of supplements.  
9,500 copies of reprints.

The average cost of printing per 1,000 words was \$16.37, and not \$32.50, but included in this cost are items not directly chargeable to the printing of the *Annals*, as will be seen by the enumeration in the report.

Such are the facts about the American Academy. Professor Hart's statements about the American Historical Association are also incorrect. The proceedings are printed and sent out at government expense, and hence it has no postage bills of this sort in its accounts. The association does not print its own magazine, but has a contract with a publishing house which issues it at a net rate to the members of the association. The receipts for advertising and subscriptions are thus not accounted for in the report of the society, nor does it contain the bills for postage and for clerical help employed by the publishing house. These net costs can not fairly be compared with the gross costs tabulated in the annual report of the American Academy.

SIMON N. PATTEN

IS THE "ACADEMIC COSTUME" WORTH WHILE?

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I shall not attempt to answer the above question, raised by Professor Wilder in your issue of January 31. But if the question had been worded "Is